



The Bethel Courier.

Volume II—Number 1

DECEMBER 1977

Bethel Historical Society



Our Boys Day — May 14, 1919

WAR TO END ALL WARS: BETHEL DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Editor's Note: Sixty years ago the United States was at war with Germany. Much has been written about the Great War but little has been attempted in assessing its impact upon the American small town. The following is a brief sketch of wartime conditions in Bethel, providing a view of its patriotic fervor, its activities on behalf of the fighting men and its attempts to provide every possible support to the war effort.

* * *

Before 1917 there appears almost no mention in the pages of the "Bethel Oxford County Citizen" of the European conflict which had begun in 1914 and developed into a larger war. News in the "Citizen" for this period was almost exclusively confined to the usual record of visitations and social affairs, comments on the weather and obituaries. However, soon after the United States Congress declared war on April 6, 1917, the next issue of this weekly provided an account of a patriotic meeting at the Universalist Church where efforts to form a Relief Corps and Red Cross were begun. The following week the "Citizen" reported "the first demonstration of patriotism was shown" when a group turned out to escort the men who had enlisted to the railroad station. "A fife and drum corp," recorded the "Citizen," "headed the procession which

formed in front of the post office and with flags flying the boys were given a good send off." The initial group to go were Gould Academy students Herbert Bean, Elwin Wilson and Vivian Hutchins plus others in town who included Winfield Howe, Asa Burgess, Albert Silver, Leslie Coburn and Vernon Judkins. All of these men joined Company D formed at Norway.

Thus began almost two years of intense interest in and support for United States participation in the war. Almost immediately concern for food was established as a priority (with spring planting not far ahead) and a concerted effort was made by local citizens to produce one acre of hoed crops. Many of the town's more prominent men of the period became part of this campaign including Judge Addison E. Herrick, William Bingham II, Dr. E. L. Brown, Irving Carver, Gilbert Tuell, Fred Merrill, Daniel Hastings, Herbert Rowe, E. C. Park, Guy Thurston, William Bryant, Ira Jordan and many others. Growing more food and food conservation were two causes that received much attention during this period. "This was the time that the home garden became popular," recalls Pearl Tibbetts whose husband Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts served in the Navy at Kittery during the conflict. Eventually there would be a food conservation movement with 340 Bethel families pledging to restrict their consumption.

Accompanying this emphasis on agriculture

were the activities to help the conduct of the war by joining the Red Cross (open to men and women for one dollar membership fee). A room was opened over L. W. Ramsell's store on Main Street (now the site of the Window Box) and such items as bandages and sterile dressings were prepared here to be sent overseas. Also working to supply war-time needs was the Navy League, formed in 1903 with clubs all over the nation to promote a strong naval defense. Both promoted the knitting of articles for the servicemen and were responsible for sending 271 Christmas bags overseas in October 1917.

Moreover, the financing of the war was not neglected in Bethel. In May 1917 a Liberty Loan Committee was formed to encourage the purchase of War bonds. Attorney Ellery C. Park served as chairman and many of the town's more notable men and women served on the committee and assisted in the sale of these securities. There would eventually be four campaigns between the middle of 1917 and October, 1918 with some \$400,000 worth sold.

By the end of May, 1917 the draft became a reality and in June of that year all male residents between the ages of 21 and 30 were required to register. The "Citizen" almost weekly carried announcements of those approved for induction and those rejected. There also were advertisements designed to stir patriotism and motivate "the slackers" to volunteer.

As in most war, shortages for the civilian population began to become apparent. "Sugar was scarce, also flour and molasses," recalls World War I veteran Paul Head whose father was then operating the family store in West Bethel. Other commodities were limited but not to the extent they would become during World War II. By the summer of 1918, however, the "Citizen" was warning its readers against "Sunday joy rides" in an effort to save precious resources.

One of the sidelights of the American effort was the campaign to protect the American border with Mexico from the raids of Pancho Villa. Bert Grover participated in that episode and several of his letters were published in the "Citizen." Since much of the work of his unit was involved in preventing incursions from Mexico, his letters provide useful insights. After one skirmish, Grover wrote his mother in Bethel that he expected "more trouble with them (Mexican insurgents) before they find out that they can't have their own way."

There was other correspondence published from the men in the service but probably none as poignant as that of George Mundt who was early sent to France and would die in the fighting there in July, 1918. His letters capture some of the enthusiasm typical of the young men who saw themselves as defenders of democracy but even that noble cause did not diminish a sense of homesickness as Mundt wrote in a letter of November 13, 1917: "The line from Gram brought back memories of Xmas with a pair of gloves always for my Christmas present." Even the mud and rain which made conditions even worse brought back comparisons with home. "The roads," wrote Mundt, "are just like Brandy Brook hill only more slippery and just as steep in places." However, this nostalgia was tempered by such comments as not wishing to return home "till the Stars

and Stripes" were "on Kaiser William's flag pole in Berlin."

News of Mundt's death did not reach Bethel until August 1918 through a letter sent by one of his friends, Fred L. Armstrong. To the dead soldier's mother, Armstrong paid tribute to her son as "one of the most reliable cool and steady cannoneers we had." "He was," continued Armstrong, "always full of fun and life, a good comrade, ready to buck into any hard work." "The Citizen" followed the publication of this letter with the comment that "the above letter was received by Mrs. Mundt last week but she has received no official notice and is hoping that the fears are groundless." Curiously, it was not until March, 1919 that official word was received from the War Department that Mundt had indeed been killed in France and was buried there.

Accompanying the letter referring to Mundt's death was the news that another Bethel man had been wounded in the left arm and neck by a high explosive shell. Herbert R. Bean survived but carried the scars of combat for the remainder of his life. Mundt's death and Bean's injury served to bring the grim realities of combat home to Bethel residents as nothing could perhaps have done.

In addition to the risks of death or maiming that always exist in combat, there was the ever present danger of pneumonia. Many soldiers stationed both abroad and on the home front succumbed to its dangers. One Bethel man who survived a bout was Winfield Howe who wrote his mother from France after the crisis had passed in a decidedly upbeat mood: "Well, Ma, don't worry about me at all for I'll be all right pretty soon and ready to talk to Fritz again."

Local efforts to support the "boys" besides the sale of bonds were perhaps highlighted by the campaign to knit items that would make life on the war front more endurable. Sweaters, socks, wristers, mufflers and helmets were in constant demand. William Bingham II and William J. Upson were apparently the chief suppliers of money to buy yarn for these items and every available woman was encouraged to learn to knit so that Bethel might make a good showing. Contests were conducted as incentives to increase participation. One worthy of note was that sponsored by Mr. Upson to see who could knit the most sweaters between October, 1917 and Easter 1918. It was won by Mrs. W. H. Hutchinson who produced fifty sweaters during that period.

This first of modern wars produced several additions to the already grim horrors of combat including poisonous gas. A few Bethel men experienced the effects of this weapon but none were seriously affected. Those back on the home front were encouraged to save fruit stones which were used to produce carbon that was essential to protect soldiers from the peril of gas.

By October, 1918 there were rumors of an impending armistice. When in fact these reports became reality on November 11, 1918 a sense of jubilation prevailed all over the United States. The "Citizen" reported the scene in Bethel: "At twelve o'clock the pupils of the Academy and Brick School paraded the streets, the bells rang, the whistles blew and about fifty automobiles decorated with flags filled with people made merry for an hour."

None breathes to Heaven a warmer prayer
 That all Earth's comforts may be thine;
 Till passing from this world of care,
 They brighten into bliss divine.

When near this page shall meet thine eye
 Let us no longer strangers be;
 Be thine the blessing from on high,
 And in thy heart remember me.

John Quincy Adams

Washington 10 Jan 1835

SOCIETY RECEIVES MASON AUTOGRAPH BOOKS

Through the generosity of the heirs of Daniel and Ada Durell, the last of Dr. Mason's family to live in his house, the Society has received two autograph books, one belonging to the doctor and the other to his wife, Agnes.

The autographs in Dr. Mason's book were apparently collected in 1836 while he was in Congress. He has listed the names of the states at the top of each page and persuaded the two senators to sign in one section and the representatives in another. As a result, the book contains some of the most famous men of his day including two presidents, John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson, plus a future chief executive, Martin Van Buren. James Madison's autograph is pasted in at the beginning of the book. Other famous signatures appearing in this volume are those of Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay and Thomas Hart Benton.

A certain sense of pride may have prompted the doctor to prepare lists of persons holding a particular office, especially ones that he held. Found in the book are lists of Selectmen of Bethel (1796-1862), men from Oxford County who served as U. S. Representatives (1819-1850), Governor's councillors (1821-1855) from Oxford County, Postmasters of Bethel (1814-1863) and Justices of the Peace. All of these lists contain Moses Mason's name. Also present are lists of Bethel's ministers, lawyers and doctors, a sketch of the town's early families, and census data, plus documents relating to Dublin, New Hampshire from which the Mason family came in 1789.

Mrs. Mason's book is somewhat smaller and historically less interesting but does contain a touching and affectionate note written by the doctor to his beloved wife. It also possesses a poem in the handwriting of John Quincy Adams with the former President's signature at the bottom, dated 1835. Much of the book is filled with warm messages from well-wishers in Washington.

These two volumes are quite rightly two of the most prized possessions of the Society for they tell us much about the Masons and their times.

ANNUAL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 1

At the annual meeting of the Bethel Historical Society the nominating committee consisting of Floribel Haines, E. M. Quinn, and Mary Valentine presented the following slate of officers: President, Dr. John J. Willard, Jr.; Vice-President, Catherine Newell; Secretary, Judith Haskell; Treasurer, Margaret Joy Tibbetts; Trustee for three years, Suzanne Fiske. These individuals were unanimously approved by the membership. Mrs. Floribel Haines, charter member and retiring trustee of the Society was praised by President Willard for her long and devoted service.

Following the annual meeting the Trustees organized for the ensuing year. Margaret Joy Tibbetts was re-elected to head the board and Judith Haskell, Society Secretary, will again serve as clerk.

The following committees were appointed by President Willard and approved by the Board of Trustees for 1977-78:

Building — Donald Eddy, Chairman; E. M. Quinn, Julia Brown, Richard Verville

Garden and Grounds — Sudie Vachon, Chairwoman; Clare Smith, Gertrude Hutchins, Hazel Wheeler, Donald Bennett, Donald Eddy, Margaret Tibbetts, Jane Vogt

Education and Research — Randall Bennett, Chairman; Clare Smith, Catherine Newell, Rosalind Chapman, Elizabeth Smith, Virginia Kelly, Judith Haskell, Nancy Morrill, Sue Wight, Kurt Brown

Membership — E. M. Quinn, Chairman; John Willard, Marge Noll, Mary Valentine

Program — Geraldine Howe, Chairwoman; Edith Eypper, Maxine Brown, Helen Morton, Richard Fraser

Museum — Marge Noll and Judith Haskell, Chairwomen; Floribel Haines, Nell Valentine, Rosalind Chapman, Margaret Davis, Agnes Haines, Richard Fraser, Suzanne Fiske

Finance — John Willard, Chairman; Margaret Tibbetts, Pearline McMillin

Special Projects — Carolyn Brooks, Chairwoman; Sarah Stevens, Marguerite Quinn, Elsie Waldron, Pearline McMillin, Sue Chamberlin.

Andrew Jackson

IN MEMORIAM

Since the publication of the last issue of the "Courier" two devoted members have passed away: Herschel Glines and Milton Jacobs. Both had been members of the Society since the first year of its existence in 1966 and will be greatly missed.

"OUR BOYS" HONORED MAY 14, 1919

Roland Annis
Ivan Arno
Chester Bean
Frank A. Bean
Herbert Bean
Wesley Bean
Henry Bennett
Ernest Bisbee
Dana G. Brooks
Adelmar R. Brown
Edward Brown
Harry Brown
Ralph Blake
Leslie Blake
Lester Burhoe
Alvin Chapman
Perry Chapman
Harry Chase
Albert Clark
Harold Chandler
Leslie Coburn
Byron A. Cummings
Chester A. Cummings
Hermon H. Cummings
Ray A. Cummings
Roy I. Cummings
Claude Goddard
Gard Goddard
Bert Grover
Paul B. Head
Winfield Howe
Vivian Hutchins
Curtis Hutchinson
George Mason
James W. Kelley
Lloyd Luxton
William J. McKay
Alfred Maddix
Walter Merrill
Francis Mills
George Mills
Robert Mills
Roy Moore
Lester Mason
Earl Maxim
George A. Mundt
Everett Neal
Joseph Perry
George Pinhere
Harold Rich
Frank Robertson
Percy Robertson
Albert Silver
Roger Sloan
Theodore Sinard
Philip M. Smith
William Spinney
Harry Spinney
Howard Taylor
Charles Tuell
Raymond R. Tibbetts
Carroll Valentine
Eugene Van Den Kerckhoven
Guy Waldron
Elwin Wilson
Harry Young

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILES PRINCIPAL OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John J. Willard, Jr., President

John J. Willard, Jr., was born in Bryant Pond, Maine and graduated from Gould Academy in 1952, and received a B. S. from Clarkson College of Technology in 1956. He was awarded the Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1960. In 1961 he received a post doctoral fellowship for study at the College of Forestry, Syracuse, New York and in 1963 he was awarded a fellowship for study at the University of Birmingham in the United Kingdom. His positions have included: Senior Scientist, The Textile Research Institute, 1963-66; Manager of Finishes Research and Development, J. P. Stevens and Co., Inc., 1966-72; Senior Consultant to Arthur D. Little, Inc. in textile research and development. He is currently in India, Under UNIDO, Indian Cotton Textile and Process Technology through ATIRA. He is married to the former Elizabeth Vollrath and served as President of the Bethel Chamber of Commerce. He was Vice-President of the Society in 1974-76 and has been President since September 1976.

Catherine Scott-Craig Newell, Vice President

A native of Hanover, New Hampshire, Catherine Scott-Craig Newell graduated from Vassar College in 1966 and received a M.A.T. in social studies from the University of Maine at Orono in 1968. Mrs. Newell has taught art history at Gould Academy and is very active in community affairs serving on the Bethel Bicentennial Committee, Bethel Planning Committee and as secretary of the Democratic town and county committees. She is married to Charles Newell and the mother of two children. Mrs. Newell was for several years chairwoman of the Education and Research Committee of the Society and has been especially active in the publications and exhibits program. She became Vice-President in September 1976.

Judith E. Haskell, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees

Born in Portland, Judith E. Haskell is a native of Norway, Maine and graduated from Norway High School in 1950. After attending Tufts College for two years, she married Colwyn Haskell, an engineer at Boise Cascade in Rumford. She is the mother of two children. Mrs. Haskell received her B. S. in Education from the University of Maine at Orono in 1971. She has been active in community organizations, having lived in Bethel since 1956. Currently serving her third year as Secretary of the Society and Clerk of the Trustees, Mrs. Haskell also is co-chairwoman of the Museum Committee.

Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Treasurer and Chairman, Board of Trustees

Margaret Joy Tibbetts was born in Bethel, Maine and graduated from Gould Academy in 1937. She received her A.B. degree from Wheaton College in 1941, and A.M. and Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr in 1942 and 1944 respectively. Between 1944 and 1971 she was a Foreign Service Officer serving in London, Brussels, Leopoldville, Ambassador to Norway (1964-69) and several tours in the Department of State. In 1971 she retired as Deputy Assistant Sec-

This was followed by an open air meeting on the common.

At the March, 1919 town meeting, a committee was appointed to honor veterans of the war. Rev. H. S. Trueman was appointed to serve as Chairman with E. C. Park as Secretary and Fred A. Tibbetts as Treasurer. What resulted was called "Our Boys Day," held May 14, 1919. The celebration was enhanced by bright and sunny weather which strengthened the already great enthusiasm and insured large crowds. Activities included a Grand Parade (featuring Bethel's only war baby, Frank O'Neil Robertson, Jr.), a luncheon catered by the Falmouth Hotel of Portland (free to "our boys"), a baseball game between Bethel and Rumford (won by Rumford 6-1) and a variety show at Odeon Hall where each participant was provided with an honor certificate. Governor Carl E. Milliken was present during the festivities and addressed the crowd assembled on the Common. It was indeed a glorious end to a war that had been fought to end all wars. But even with the formal cessation of hostilities there was much relief work to be done. Bethel citizens continued their interest by supporting the Red Cross and the United War Work Campaign which were committed to assist those who had been dislocated in Europe by four years of destruction. These actions were but a continuation of the effort which had drawn the support of most organizations and individuals in the town. Bethel had contributed much to a great national sacrifice and had done so without hesitation. —S. R. H.

PROGRAM 1978

All meetings will be held in the meeting room of the Dr. Moses Mason House Museum unless otherwise noted and will begin promptly at 7:30 p. m.

January 5, 1978 — Bethel Newspapers. Film: "The Colonial Printer"

February 2, 1978 — Film: "The Colonial Naturalist"

March 2, 1978 — Film: "Musical Instrument Maker at Williamsburg"

April 6, 1978 — Bethel and World War I. Education and Research Committee.

May 4, 1978 — Mrs. Helen Leadbeater, "Moll Ockett"

June 1, 1978 — Mrs. Frances Peabody, Head, Tate House, "Tate House"

July 6, 1978 — Dr. Robert M. York, State Historian and Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Maine, Portland-Gorham, "Maine Churches"
This meeting will be held at the East Bethel Church. Picnic will begin at 6 p. m.

August 3, 1978 — Bethel's Cemeteries. Film: "The Stone Whistle"

September 7, 1978 — Annual Meeting. Pot Luck Supper at 6:30 p. m.

October 5, 1978 — "What's It Night"

November 2, 1978 — Two Hundred Years of Chairs. Museum Committee.

December 7, 1978 — Annual Christmas Program.

Published semi-annually by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all inquiries and suggestions to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Newsletter, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Two ideas I advocated in the first issue of the Courier appear to have met with success. The first, a weekly column entitled "A Century Ago" published in the Bethel Citizen reprints news relating to Bethel that appeared in the Oxford Democrat one hundred years ago. The second suggestion, an August lecture series, was initiated this year and as a result of the interest shown will be a regular feature of the Society's summer program. I expect other innovations will appear in the future.

Best wishes to all for a happy and successful 1978.

John J. Willard, Jr.

MOSES MASON HOUSE MUSEUM CONCLUDES A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Once again the Moses Mason House Museum enjoyed a successful season. Several hundred visitors were registered and enjoyed not only the steady growth of the museum's collections but also the special exhibit in the meeting room entitled "Bethel's Broad Street" which featured numerous photographs, artifacts, art by Helen Morton and Sue Wight, plus a scale model of the Common area in 1880.

On November 18 volunteers who had assisted with the operation of the museum were honored by the Museum Committee at a special reception highlighted by a meal cooked over the fire in the winter kitchen as it would perhaps have been in the days of Dr. Moses Mason.

SOCIETY TO OFFER DR. MOSES MASON AWARD

The Society is sponsoring a contest open to Gould Academy and Telstar High School students, grades 9-12, designed to stimulate interest in local history. A prize consisting of a \$50 savings bond and a handsome certificate will be awarded to the student with the best essay on a local subject based on primary sources. The award will be made at the close of the school year.

EDITOR'S CORNER

This autumn I had the honor of being a member of a study exchange to France sponsored by the Rotary Foundation. During my visit I had the opportunity to become familiar with numerous museums, archives and restorations. I was impressed by their diversity and the innovative nature of particular institutions. Moreover I found that adaptive re-use of old structures appears to be progressing well in France. It was my understanding that government support and incentives for restoration appeared more advanced than in the United States, but the French seemed to have few individuals and private organizations involved in historic preservation. There was also much to be learned concerning architecture and I was especially impressed by the variations upon the Second Empire style which was so influential in American designs of the nineteenth century. I am indeed grateful to all those who made my trip possible.

NEW AREA PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

- "The Old Maps of Oxford County, Maine in 1858," Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, 1976. 52 pp.
- "The Maine Bicentennial Atlas: An Historical Survey," Portland: Maine Historical Society, 1976. 90 pp.
- "Waterford, Maine, 1875-1976," published by the Waterford Historical Society, 1977. 308 pp., illustrated, end maps, hardcover. \$10.00 plus .75 shipping from Mrs. Margaret Sawyer, Waterford, Maine 04088.
- "A Bicentennial History of Hiram, Me. 1776-1976," Hiram, Maine: Hiram Bicentennial Committee. 1976.

BOOK REVIEW

J. E. Martin, "Jonathan Adams Bartlett," Rumford, Maine: Rumford Publishing Company, 1976, 80 pp., illus., hardcover.

The long Maine winter is upon us. If you would like to spend an enjoyable two hours before the fire with a collection of photographs, maps, charts, facsimiles of newspaper clippings and letters, I recommend the book "Jonathan Adams Bartlett," a biography of a recently discovered nineteenth century American folk artist whose life and times are opened before us in this book by a practicing physician, Dr. Edward Martin, a resident of North Rumford, Maine. It will be of particular interest to those who bear the name of Bartlett, or have Bartlett family connections: the genealogy is carefully traced and much historical information is given concerning the first Bartletts and their struggles to help settle the areas of Maine along the Androscoggin River. The locale of the book is the Rumford Center/South Rumford area, where Jonathan Bartlett was born and spent the eighty-five years of his life.

Gleaning from the book the facts concerning the life of Mr. Bartlett is difficult indeed, as we are taken on many little side trips to various buildings, cemeteries—and even the Abenaki tribal lands, with one whole chapter devoted to Mollyockett. All of this is interesting, but not always relevant. Much is written of the eight children who graced his home, all bearing extraordinary names associated with the arts. Without too much documentation we are told that, although by trade a farmer and house-builder, Bartlett was "a man for all seasons." Perhaps a more accurate appraisal would be "a jack of all trades." In addition to his artistic endeavors, he was a cabinet maker, an inventor, a musician (his instruments being the violin and the clarinet), a vocalist, and a penman (this last accomplishment being sadly lacking in the modern world). Blacksmith work and, later, making and using photographic plates should be added to his list of skills. We are also told that although his education was acquired in a one-room school and by prodigious reading, Bartlett was known as an eloquent speaker, a writer, and an actor.

Dr. Martin's motive in writing the book was perhaps to stimulate interest in two paintings attributed to Jonathan Bartlett and acquired by the

author from a member of the Bartlett family. These two paintings—one an unsigned self-portrait, the other of his fiancée, Harriet Glines, signed and dated 1814—now hang in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center at Williamsburg, Virginia, acquired for what is claimed to be the largest sum ever paid for folk art of this genre. Self-portraits by folk artists are extremely rare, which assists in explaining their value.

Although family tradition claims that Bartlett painted prodigiously all his life, only three other paintings have come to light, none signed or dated: his earliest is one of George Washington, which Dr. Martin places at 1830-35, when Bartlett was 13-18 years of age(!). One of a child, Quincy Dolloff, Martin dates 1850, and the "Still Life of Fruit and Glass of Wine," 1855. If the improvement in technique exhibited in this last painting continued in subsequent works we have some real artistic treats in store for us as the canvasses of Jonathan Bartlett re-appear from attics and closets. Although landscapes are attributed to him, none has as yet come to light, nor have other portraits of family and neighbors.

Other artistic undertakings of Bartlett include sign painting, stenciling furniture and walls, as well as mural painting. Interesting little stencils adorn the book; these are presumably taken from some of Bartlett's designs.

In evaluating Jonathan Adams Bartlett's claim to fame, I would hesitate to use the expression employed by Dr. Martin: "works of art as fine as as any painted in America." Little survives to indicate that Bartlett received any acclaim as an artist during his life-time, 1817-1902, a century during which such artists as Gilbert Stuart and Chester Harding were producing really magnificent portraits. The intervening years can hardly have improved the artistic quality of his known works. Folk portraitists, like the itinerant mural painters, were usually craftsmen and not true artists; both served the function of preserving for posterity samples of their time: its life-style and people. But, who am I to quarrel with the curator of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center?

Helen Morton

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

The Society has requests for any data relating to Enoch Woodbury, Andrew Woodbury, William Woodbury, John William Woodbury, Simeon Lowell, and Annie Robinson. Genealogical inquiries or information should be sent to the Society, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

BROAD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATED

On October 7, 1977 the Maine Historic Preservation Commission nominated the proposed Broad Street Historic District for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. At this time approval is still pending from the Department of Interior which administers the national registration program.

retary of State for European Affairs. In 1972-74 she served as a visiting professor at Bowdoin College. Her honorary degrees include L.L.D.'s from Bates, Ohio Wesleyan, Bowdoin and the University of Maine. Currently she is a Life Trustee of Gould Academy and a Trustee of the Bethel Public Library. Her service in the Society includes Vice-President, 1973, President and Chairman of the Trustees, 1974-76. She has been treasurer since September 1976.

Donald B. Eddy, Trustee

Born in Avon, Connecticut, Donald B. Eddy was a student at the Sorbonne in Paris and graduated from Cornell University in 1933. He has served as a Foreign Officer in posts which included American Consul at Ismir, Turkey. Subsequently, he became Director of Administration and External Relations for the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, a United Nations specialized agency with headquarters in London. Later he was a Ford Foundation Consultant sent to Indo-China to assist the four nations of the Mekong River Basin (Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam) establish a quadripartite secretariat to coordinate planning and development. Mr. Eddy now pursues the study of gemology, including gem cutting as well as gem identification. He is Past President and a Director of the Oxford County Mineral and Gem Association, also a member of the British Gemmological Association. Married to the former Edith Eaton of Collinsville, Connecticut in 1935, he has three children and three grandchildren. He and Mrs. Eddy reside at Sunset Farm built by Ayres Mason, brother of Dr. Moses. Mr. Eddy serves as Chairman of the Building Committee of the Society as well as a member of the Garden and Grounds Committee. He has been a trustee since 1975.

Pearline M. McMillin, Trustee

Born at Lisbon Falls, Maine, Pearline M. McMillin was graduated from the local high school and Bates College (1939). She continued her education with graduate work at Columbia University. Mrs. McMillin was for fifteen years a social worker for the Maine Department of Health and Welfare based in Lewiston-Auburn, later Augusta and subsequently Skowhegan. Following her marriage to Roderick

S. McMillin of Bethel she served as bookkeeper in his transportation and construction business until Mr. McMillin's death in 1971. Mrs. McMillin has served as President and Treasurer of Mundt-Allen Unit 81, American Legion Auxiliary and Secretary of the Bethel Health Council. She is currently Secretary-Treasurer of the Riverside Cemetery Association. Her service in the Society includes three years as treasurer (1974-76). She is at present Trustee, Assistant Treasurer, a member of the Finance and Special Projects Committees and a life member of the Society.

Suzanne Fiske, Trustee

Suzanne Fiske was born in Providence, Rhode Island and is a graduate of Wrentham High School, Wrentham, Massachusetts. She attended the University of Rhode Island and has lived in Maine the past twenty-five years. Active in the West Parish Congregational Church, she also assists with health oriented programs. The wife of Lincoln Fiske, Sr., she is the mother of three children. Mrs. Fiske has been a member of the Museum Committee the past five years, serving the last three as chairwoman. She was elected a Trustee this year.

Stanley Russell Howe, Curator

Born in Lewiston, Maine, Stanley Russell Howe is a graduate of Gould Academy (1962) and Gorham State College (1966). He received his M.A. in American History in 1967 from the University of Connecticut and his Ph.D. from the University of Maine at Orono. While in graduate school he received two doctoral fellowships and was elected to membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the historical honor society. Prior to becoming curator of the Society, he served as research assistant to Dr. William Kilbourn of York University, Toronto. Dr. Howe was Secretary-Treasurer of the Bethel Bicentennial Committee last year. He is also a Past Master of Alder River Grange and is currently President of the East Bethel Church Association and Treasurer of the East Bethel Cemetery Association. He also serves as a Trustee for Citizens for Historic Preservation and Second Vice-President of the Maine Society, Sons of the American Revolution. In 1977 he was part of a five man study exchange to France sponsored by Rotary International. He is a member

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (4) special library and archival privileges |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (5) semi-annual newsletter |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | |

To the Membership Committee: I am interested in becoming a member of the Society.

(Please Print)

Name

Address

Signature

Please check appropriate category and send your remittance to: Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217

.....Sustaining \$2.50 (Individual)
Contributing \$10.00
Patron \$25.00
Student (under 18 years) \$1.00

.....Life over 55 years \$50.00 single
Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple
Life under 55 years \$100.00 single
Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple

of the Board of Selectmen-Assessors of the Town of Bethel. A member of the Society since 1966, he also serves as editor of the "Courier." His professional memberships include the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and the Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums.

THE "COURIER" AND FREEMAN'S HALL

Editor's Note: Readers of this newsletter may be interested to learn something of the background of the first "Courier" published in Bethel between 1858 and 1861. Dr. N. T. True, who was a frequent contributor to the original newspaper, is believed to have written the following article which appeared in the "Portland Transcript," December 24, 1881:

"Hon. J. Alden Smith, formerly publisher of the Bethel Courier, now State Geologist of Colorado, is visiting his native state. He has acquired a fortune by honorable and valuable service in developing the mining interests of his native state.

"The office of the 'Courier,' cases, composing room and editor's desk were in one room which comprised the whole second story, excepting an entry, of a building erected for a stable while the railroad was being built, that stood upon the northerly side of Main Street, and was the second building from Church Street. The way to it, or to Freeman's Hall, as the room was called a half century ago, was by a set of outside stairs erected upon the westerly side of the building. The ground floor was one square room and was used for post-office purposes. Richard A. Frye, Esq. was postmaster there from 1853 to 1857, assisted by a young man by the name of Alanson Caswell, who was a painter and on the side kept a little stationery for sale. Caswell went off to Massachusetts, married a widow with children and became a grocer.

"A lodge of Good Templars occupied the upper story in the fall of 1855 and spring of 1856, at which time there was a little disturbance among the students of Gould's Academy relative to a proposed May Day party, some wanting one thing and others

FROM THE "BETHEL COURIER", SEPTEMBER 23, 1859

Mason's Park. Hon. Moses Mason has fenced in a piece of land near the head of Spring St., for a public Park. It is neatly terraced, drained and planted with trees, many of which have been set out ten or fifteen years. In one corner are two circular fish ponds, fed by a spring. It will accommodate a dinner party of one thousand persons. Too much praise cannot be given to any one who assumes the character of the public benefactor, not only to the present, but to coming generations. Nothing will better serve to perpetuate the memory of an individual than such an act.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Currently total membership in the Society is approximately 250. Two new life members have been added to the rolls since the last issue of the "Courier" bringing the total in this category to 31. New life members are Mrs. Annie Hastings whose residence at the corner of Main and Broad is part of the proposed Historic District, and Miss Ruth Crosby, Professor Emerita of English at the University of Maine at Orono.

Mrs. Hastings, a registered nurse, is the widow of Henry Hastings, longtime Bethel attorney. Dr. Crosby, a summer resident of Sunday River, is the author of "I Was a Summer Boarder" and "From An Old Leather Trunk."

something else. When the use of the hotel hall was refused for dancing purposes Freeman's Hall was chartered by the dancers and pressed into service—a proposition never before thought of or acted upon by anyone. I think there was just room for four sets of cotillions, but five or six were put on and such a gay evening, it was contended, has never before been spent on the Hill. After that event and until occupancy by the 'Courier' people (in December 1858) for printing purposes, the room was used from time to time for dancing. The final end of the barn-like structure I cannot tell."

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